



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*** GUEST EDITORIAL ***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2008-166

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

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Students can learn from our veterans' legacy of service

By State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster

Veterans Day is an opportunity for us to recognize and honor the many Americans who are serving or have served in our nation's armed forces.

There are thousands of Wisconsinites who are veterans. They are ordinary, everyday people who, in many cases, performed extraordinary service as members of our nation's armed forces. They are our family members, our friends, and our neighbors, hailing from all corners of the state.

As we come together to commemorate the service of our veterans, let us also make a commitment to learn from their stories, their heroism, and their selfless commitment to the ideals upon which our nation was founded. Our veterans play an important role in helping students learn more about America's values. When they share their stories and experiences with the next generation, they provide our children with a deeper appreciation of our nation's history, our strength, and our ability to stand united as one people. Veterans teach our students that it takes dedication, participation, and hard work to ensure that our democracy's gift of freedom will endure.

By continuing their legacy of service to country through sharing tales of military duty, our veterans encourage students to follow their lead of service to the community and nation. Our veterans show students that they can help themselves by helping others. Whether it is through community programs, service organizations, or public service projects, our veterans show our students that through service, they become part of a larger community.

Let us all take time to thank our veterans for their service, not just on Veterans Day, November 11, but also throughout the year. They have shown dedication and commitment to our communities, to Wisconsin, and to our country. They are leaders and role models who show young people what it means to be an American in the 21st century. Veterans believed in service for the greater good. Let us thank our veterans for ensuring the health and strength of our American democracy through service.

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Elizabeth Burmaster is the elected state superintendent of public instruction.

NOTES: A high-resolution photo of the state superintendent is available on the Department of Public Instruction "Media Contacts and Resources" webpage at <http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/vm-media.html>. This editorial is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_166.pdf. Additional information on Veterans Day is available on the Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://dva.state.wi.us/veteransday/>.

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